

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 ISO-00 EURE-00 AID-05 PM-04  
NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00  
/071 W

-----201837Z 106932 /47

P 201758Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3549

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVO

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY BANGUI

AMEMBASSY KIGALI

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 OTTAWA 04133

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EAID, XA, CA

SUBJECT: GOC ATTENTION TO FRANCOPHONE STATES

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1. SUMMARY: GOC INTEREST IN RELATIONS WITH THE FRANCO-  
PHONIE DATES ONLY FROM 1960S WHEN PRES DE GAULLE'S FAMOUS  
"VIVE LE QUEBEC LIBRE" REMARK AND QUEBEC'S FLEXING OF  
INTERNATIONAL MUSCLES CAUSED OTTAWA TO TAKE THE MATTER  
SERIOUSLY. IN ENSUING PERIOD, GOC HAS EXTENDED AID TO  
21 FRANCOPHONE COUNTRIES AND BELONGS TO 19 FRANCOPHONE  
ORGANIZATIONS. CURRENT LEVEL OF AID TO FRENCH WEST

AFRICAN COUNTRIES ABOUT 105 MILLION PER YEAR. MAY 5 DESIGNATION OF SUPPLY MIN GOYER AS FRANCOPHONE SPECIAL ADVISOR TO UNILINGUAL MIN EXTERNAL AFFAIRS JAMIESON WAS AN INDICATION OF SPECIAL ATTENTION GOC CONTINUES TO GIVE THIS SUBJECT. AND WITH PARTI QUEBECOIS GOVERNMENT IN QUEBEC LIKELY TO EXERCISE EVEN MORE INDEPENDENT "FOREIGN POLICY", IT LIKELY THE FRANCOPHONIE WILL GET EVEN MORE GOC ATTENTION. END SUMMARY.

2. ON MAY 5 SUPPLY MIN GOYER WAS DESIGNATED SPECIAL ADVISOR TO EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MIN JAMIESON ON RELATIONS WITH FRANCOPHONE COUNTRIES. EXPLAINING MOVE IN HOUSE OF COMMONS, ACTING PM MAC EACHEN NOTED IT "WAS A GOOD IDEA IN RELATION TO THE INCREASING IMPORTANCE OF OUR RELATIONS WITH FRANCOPHONE COUNTRIES".

3. GOYER APPOINTMENT SERVES AS USEFUL REMINDER OF MAGNITUDE OF ATTENTION GOC HAS DEVOTED TO RELATIONS WITH FRANCOPHONE COUNTRIES OVER PAST 15 YEARS. PRIOR TO EARLY-SIXTIES FRANCOPHONE AFFAIRS WAS A FORGOTTEN AREA WITH NEARLY COMPLETE ABSENCE OF RELATIONS WITH FRANCOPHONE COUNTRIES OTHER THAN FRANCE AND FEW OTHERS. ACCORDING TO STORY IN MIN EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (EXTAFF), FIRST MINOR BREAKTHROUGH IN EARLY 60S CAME IN UNUSUAL, AMUSING WAY. THEN MIN OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS GREEN HAPPENED TO BE SITTING NEXT TO CAMEROON DELEGATE AT A UN SESSION, ENJOYED TALKING WITH THE MAN AND WAS SURPRISED TO LEARN OF ABSENCE OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. RELATIONS WITH CAMEROON CONFIDENTIAL

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SHORTLY THEREAFTER BECAME START OF GOC PRESENCE IN WEST AFRICA.

4. REAL IMPETUS FOR GOC INTEREST IN FRANCOPHONE AFRICA PROVIDED BY TWO TRAUMATIC EVENTS IN LATE 60S. FIRST WAS GENERAL DE GAULLE'S FAMOUS "VIVE LE QUEBEC LIBRE" STATEMENT IN JULY 1967 AT MONTREAL. OTHER WAS GABON'S 1968 DECISION TO INVITE QUEBEC TO A FRENCH MINISTERS OF EDUCATION MEETING BUT TO EXCLUDE GOC. GOC WAS THEREBY FORCED TO REALIZATION THAT, IF IT DID NOT REPRESENT INTERNATIONAL INTERESTS OF SOME SIX MILLION FRANCOPHONES IN CANADA, QUEBEC WOULD BE ANXIOUS TO DO SO.

5. UPSHOT OVER ENSUING YEARS HAS BEEN A CONCERTED AND WELL-FUNDED EFFORT TO FOSTER CLOSE AND FRIENDLY TIES IN FRENCH AFRICA. THE GOC HAS EXTENDED AID TO 21 FRANCOPHONE STATES AND MAURITIUS, AND THE LEVEL OF SUCH AID NOW RUNS AT ABOUT 105 MILLION DOLLARS PER YEAR, AN AMOUNT APPROXIMATELY EQUAL TO WHAT IT IS PRO-

VIDING THE ANGLOPHONE AFRICAN STATES. THE GOC BELONGS  
TO 19 DIFFERENT FRANCOPHONE TECHNICAL ORGANIZATIONS.  
THE MOST IMPORTANT, FROM GOC POINT OF VIEW, IS THE  
AGENCE DE COOPERATION CULTURELLE ET TECHNIQUE WHICH  
WAS FORMED IN 1972 WITH CANADA AS ONE OF THE MAJOR,  
MOVING FORCES. THE AGENCY HAS 23 FULL MEMBERS WITH  
LAOS AS AN ASSOCIATED STATE AND QUEBEC AS A "PARTICIPATING  
GOVERNMENT". TO DATE, ITS ACTIVITIES HAVE BEEN LARGELY  
TECHNICAL AND AT THE MINISTERIAL LEVEL BUT, ACCORDING

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 OTTAWA 04133

TO AN EXTAFF SOURCE, PM TRUDEAU, PRESIDENT SENGHOR,  
AND PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA ARE ANXIOUS TO UPGRADE ANNUAL  
MEETINGS TO HEAD OF STATE LEVEL FOR CONSIDERATION OF  
INTERNATIONAL ISSUES BEYOND THE MERE TECHNICAL.  
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6. CURRENT FOCUS OF GOC ATTENTION TO THE FRANCOPHONIE  
IS OTTAWA MEETING OF CLUB OF FRIENDS OF THE SAHEL MAY 30  
TO JUNE 2. PRELIMINARY INDICATIONS ARE THAT GOC IS  
PULLING OUT ALL ORGANIZATIONAL STOPS TO ASSURE LOGISTI-  
CAL SUCCESS OF MEETING. THIS WILL BE FIRST HIGH-LEVEL  
DEBUT FOR SUPPLY MIN GOYER, WHO IS TO ACT AS CO-CHAIRMAN  
OF THE CONFERENCE.

7. COMMENT: NO DOUBT GOC WOULD HAVE GOTTEN AROUND TO  
ESTABLISHING DIPLOMATIC AND DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE  
RELATIONSHIP WITH FRANCOPHONE WEST AFRICAN COUNTRIES  
EVEN WITHOUT DE GAULLE COMMENT AND QUEBEC'S DRIVE, IN  
EARLY 1960S, TO FORGE AN INDEPENDENT PRESENCE IN THAT  
REGION. GOC FRANCOPHONE STANCE FITS IN WITH ITS  
GENERAL MULTILATERAL POSTURE AS DEVELOPED COUNTRY  
WITH SPECIAL INFLUENCE AND SYMPATHY IN LESS DEVELOPED  
WORLD. BUT IT EQUALLY CLEAR THAT STRONG INCENTIVE FOR  
THE RELATIONSHIP DERIVES FROM DESIRE TO STAY ONE STEP  
AHEAD OF QUEBEC. NOW, WITH SEPARATIST PARTI QUEBECOIS  
(PQ) GOVERNMENT IN QUEBEC AND PROSPECT OF EVEN MORE  
INDEPENDENT QUEBEC "FOREIGN POLICY", OTTAWA CAN REASON-  
ABLY BE EXPECTED TO DEVOTE EVEN GREATER ATTENTION TO  
THE FRANCOPHONIE. THE GOYER DESIGNATION IS ONE STEP  
IN THIS DIRECTION. ENDERS

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## Message Attributes

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